

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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In the Matter of )  
 )  
Implementation of the Pay Telephone )  
Reclassification and Compensation Provisions )  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 )  
 )  
SBC Request to Extend Limited Waiver )  
of Coding Digit Requirements )  
 )  
The Southern New England Telephone )  
Company Petition For Expedited Waiver )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

CC Docket No. 96-128

To: The Common Carrier Bureau

**REPLY TO MCI WORLDCOM**  
**BY SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY,**  
**PACIFIC BELL, NEVADA BELL, AND**  
**SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY**

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company ("SWBT"), Pacific Bell, and Nevada Bell (collectively "SBC") and Southern New England Telephone Company ("SNET") file this Reply to MCI WorldCom's December 21, 1998 Opposition to SBC's Petition for Expedited Temporary Extension of Limited Waiver To Implement FLEX ANI and Opposition to SNET's Petition for Expedited Waiver.<sup>1</sup>

**I. MCI SEVERELY MISCONSTRUES SBC's WAIVER REQUEST**

MCI's only specific objection to SBC's waiver extension request is MCI's inexplicable position that SBC is seeking an indefinite waiver extension for all switches

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<sup>1</sup> SBC and SNET recently merged and filed separate Petitions.

affected by the two problems identified by SBC.<sup>2</sup> In its Petition, SBC clearly indicated in charts and text the length of the waiver extensions it seeks by switch type. SBC's Petition clearly seeks an indefinite waiver for only 9 out of over 900 switches (*i.e.*, less than 1% of the switches) that require waiver extensions for software changes.<sup>3</sup> Even for those 9 switches, the indefinite request applies to only one of the FLEX ANI problems.

SBC requested an indefinite extension for 9 Lucent 4ESS tandem switches for the 800 to POTS problem because Lucent had not responded to SBC's requests for a date by which Lucent can provide the needed software feature for solving this problem for the 4ESS switch.<sup>4</sup> MCI WorldCom states that GTE and SNET have commitments from the same vendors as SBC uses.<sup>5</sup> MCI's statement is totally irrelevant and

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<sup>2</sup> MCI WorldCom at 2 and 5. SBC requests extensions for two remaining technological problems that affect the passage of FLEX ANI on a very small percentage of payphone calls. These problems are (1) passage of digits on 800 to POTS calls and (2) inability to screen for IXCs' FLEX ANI capabilities on 800 calls at tandem switches. The first problem affects all of SBC's switches, and the second problem affects all of SBC's tandem switches. SBC has nine different types of switches provided and upgraded by three different switch vendors. SBC requests switch upgrades from these vendors but does not control their schedules for upgrades. Accordingly, SBC requested extensions based on switch vendor and type. SBC's Petition at iii, 2, and 6-7.

<sup>3</sup> SBC's Petition at iii, 2, 6-7. For the first problem, SBC requested an extension until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 1999 for 493 of the affected switches, until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 1999 for 339 of the affected switches, until the end of 1999 for the replacement of 9 switches, until the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2000 for 64 switches, until from 1999 to 2002 for the replacement of 177 switches, and indefinitely for 9 switches. SBC's Petition at iii, 2, and 6-7. For the second problem, SBC requested until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 1999 for 66 switches, until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 1999 for 18 switches, and until the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2000 for 1 switch. *Id.* Thus, out of over 900 switches subject to SBC's waiver request, SBC requested an indefinite waiver for only 9 switches.

<sup>4</sup> SBC's Petition at 2. SBC has had subsequent communications with Lucent, but the timing on an 800 to POTS solution on the 4ESS is still indefinite.

<sup>5</sup> MCI WorldCom at 5.

misleading. SNET does not have any 4ESS switches and, thus, does not face the same problem as SBC. GTE also does not identify that it needed a commitment from Lucent regarding the 4ESS switch for the 800 to POTS problem. SBC has commitments from Lucent for the other switch types. MCI WorldCom is ignoring the switch specific nature of the problems in order to misconstrue SBC's Petition.

MCI WorldCom's distortion of the record in this proceeding also is revealed by its statement that "[i]t is inconceivable that a local carrier the size of SBC would have no commitments from its vendors for software upgrades more than two years after the Commission originally ordered local carriers to deploy Flex ANI for the purpose of delivering information digits essential to track payphone calls."<sup>6</sup> SBC obtained numerous commitments from its switch vendors and has deployed FLEX ANI in all its switches. Moreover, SBC originally identified numerous problems with passing FLEX ANI on certain call types. SBC obtained commitments for software upgrades to fix all those problems in all switches, with the sole exception of 9 4ESS switches for only the 800 to POTS problem.<sup>7</sup>

This MCI WorldCom statement that SBC has had over two years to get all the commitments it needed is absurd. SBC identified the problems on certain call types as a result of testing and analysis during the course of implementing FLEX ANI. For instance, SBC did not recognize the tandem screening problem until earlier this year as the result of tests with AT&T. Moreover, switch vendors will not commit to solutions until they are satisfied that the solutions are sufficiently standardized. For instance,

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<sup>6</sup> MCI WorldCom at 5.

<sup>7</sup> SBC Petition at 3-4.

commitments could not be obtained on the 800 to POTS problem until the Industry Numbering Committee ("INC") had adopted the digits "25" to replace the digits "24" on 800 to POTS calls from payphones. Pacific Bell submitted this issue to the INC, and MCI Co-Chaired the ANI ii Task Force which worked on this issue (*i.e.*, Issue 139, ANI ii for payphone compensation). The INC closed issue 139 on September 14, 1998. Even then, switch vendors had to decide whether formal standards were needed prior to developing and committing to a solution.<sup>8</sup> SBC took the initiative of working with the vendors on the development of the required features without waiting for further standards work. In summary, with the need to identify the problems and then obtain industry consensus on solutions, SBC has done an excellent job in moving forward to get commitments from vendors for solutions.

**II. MCI WORLDCOM DOES NOT RAISE ANY VALID ARGUMENT AGAINST SBC's or SNET's WAIVER EXTENSION REQUESTS**

MCI WorldCom's only argument against the requested waiver extensions in general is that "[c]onsiderable additional effort and expense is required in order to track and pay on '07' calls" and that the tracking process is less accurate than using FLEX ANI.<sup>9</sup> The call types affected by the two problems SBC and SNET identified, however, do not prevent passage of "07" digits. The 800 to POTS calls, are identified as "24," rather than by payphone specific digits such as "07." MCI WorldCom is well aware of this distinction since it Co-Chaired the INC task force which worked on this issue. Pacific Bell introduced the issue at the INC which resulted in the digits "25" being

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<sup>8</sup> SBC Petition at 10-12.

<sup>9</sup> MCI WorldCom at 3.

adopted to replace "24" on 800 to POTS payphone calls. Serving as Co-Chair on this issue, MCI had ample opportunity to contribute to this issue while it was open at the INC. The INC did not reach closure on the new digits until September 14, 1998, and much work remains to be done in order to implement this change.<sup>10</sup> MCI WorldCom should not be upheld now in its attempt to prevent the industry from having time to implement properly the new digits.

MCI WorldCom does not make any argument relevant to SBC's and SNET's requests for extensions concerning tandem screening of IXC capabilities to accept FLEX ANI on 800 calls. This problem does not prevent passage of "07" or other coding digits but results in their passage in all cases for the very small percentage of payphone calls affected by the problem.<sup>11</sup> Given MCI WorldCom's insistence on FLEX ANI implementation on all calls as a replacement for tracking,<sup>12</sup> MCI WorldCom has no excuse for any continued failure to order FLEX ANI ubiquitously. Accordingly, SBC's and SNET's waiver extension requests related to tandem screening are not, and cannot be, rationally objected to by MCI WorldCom.

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<sup>10</sup> SBC's Petition at 10-11 and at Appendix.

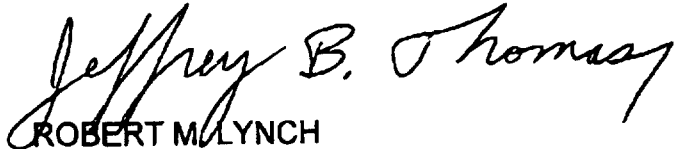
<sup>11</sup> SBC's Petition at 13-16.

<sup>12</sup> MCI WorldCom at 3.

### III. CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, the Commission should reject MCI's Opposition. It would be in the public interest for the Commission to grant SBC's and SNET's petitions to temporarily extend limited waivers. Adequate time should be provided to ensure that the remaining FLEX ANI problems can be solved, while at the same time ensuring the continued good quality of customers' communications over SBC's and SNET's networks.

Respectfully submitted,



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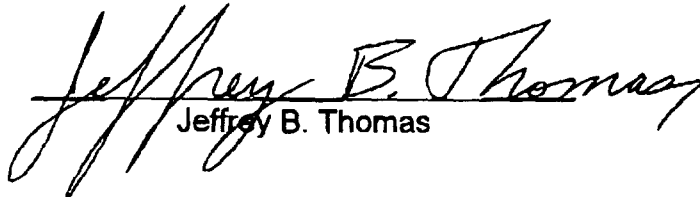
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Date: December 29, 1998

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Jeffrey B. Thomas, certify that I took the appropriate steps to ensure that the foregoing Reply was served on December 29, 1998, either by 1<sup>st</sup> class mail or hand delivery on the party and other persons listed below.

  
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